

Message Text

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51

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 8245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KENNEDY, EDWARD M) GR

SUBJECT: LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE SENATOR KENNEDY ATHENS STOPOVER

REF: ATHENS 8242

TEL AVIV PASS SENATOR KENNEDY

1. THREE OF SIX GREEK LANGUAGE ATHENS NEWSPAPERS CARRIED RELATIVELY STRAIGHT NEWS REPORTS OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S UN-SCHEDULED BRIEF STOP-OVER IN ATHENS EVENING NOVEMBER 16 AND HIS SHORT MEETING WITH PM CARAMANLIS (AT CARAMANLIS' REQUEST). TV COVERAGE LATE EVENING NOVEMBER 16 ALSO PRESENTED BRIEF FILM CLIP OF KENNEDY-CARAMANLIS EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS, WITH KENNEDY SISTER MRS. SMITH PRESENT, AND RADIO NEWSCASTS NOVEMBER 17 MADE MENTION OF MEETING. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS (ATHENS NEWS) NOVEMBER 17 MANAGED TO SQUEEZE IN LAST MINUTE SMALL BOX ON FRONT PAGE NOTING STOPOVER.

2. GREEK LANGUAGE PAPERS KATHIMERINI AND ACROPOLIS EACH CARRIED STORY OF KENNEDY-CARAMANLIS MEETING WITH TWO COLUMN HEAD ON LOWER HALF OF FRONT PAGE, WITH KATHIMERINI INCLUDING PICTURE OF SENATOR AND HIS SISTER TO ACCOMPANY ARTICLE. TO VIMA CARRIED STORY ON BACK PAGE AND GAVE STORY LENGTHIER TREATMENT THAN OTHER JOURNALS CLAIMING (INCORRECTLY) THAT IT HAD BEEN GIVEN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BY SENATOR. IN TO VIMA PIECE, SENATOR KENNEDY QUOTED AS
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STATING THAT PRINCIPAL GOAL RELEVANT TO CYPRUS IS RESTORATION OF

INDEPENDENCE TO ISLAND AND TO ACHIEVE THAT AIM FOREIGN TROOPS
MUST WITHDRAW AND REFUGEES MUST RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. ON ELECTIONS
IN GREECE, KENNEDY QUOTED AS DECLARING THAT THEY CONSTITUTE VERY
MEANINGFUL EVENT AND THAT WORLD VERY PLEASED THAT GREEK PEOPLE
WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE. RETURNING TO
CYPRUS THEME, TO VIMA REPORTED THAT SENATOR KENNEDY STATED HIS
BELIEF THAT USA IS ABLE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN AIDING THE
REFUGEES AND THAT MOREOVER USA CAN PLAY "EDIFYING" ROLE IN
EFFORTS TOWARDS REACHING A SOLUTION FOR CYPRUS.
KUBISCH

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